

An "At Home" Purim

This year, we've decided to celebrate Purim at home—at our Sha'ar Zahav home that is: 220 Danvers Street. On Saturday, March 14, Purim will be celebrated at CSZ with a special service including this year's interpretive reading of the Megillah by the Ritual Committee and friends.

A festive party will follow the service, with music, dancing, light refreshments and generally just a good time. Featured at the party will be:

- Our "traditional" **Costume Party**, with prizes awarded for best single and couple.
- Our "traditional" **Hamentaschen Bake-Off**—bring at least one dozen for judges to sample.

There is no admission charge to the Purim service, but a \$1 cover will be asked for the party following the service.

Join us for this new concept in Sha'ar Zahav Purim parties. You'll still get the whole Megillah—but in a newer, "lite" variety. For further information, call the office or Shirley Liberman, 550-1744.

* * * * *

Purim Service & Party

Saturday, March 14
from 7:30 pm sharp

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers at Caselli

Lecture by

Rabbi Douglas Kahn
Jewish Community Relations
Council

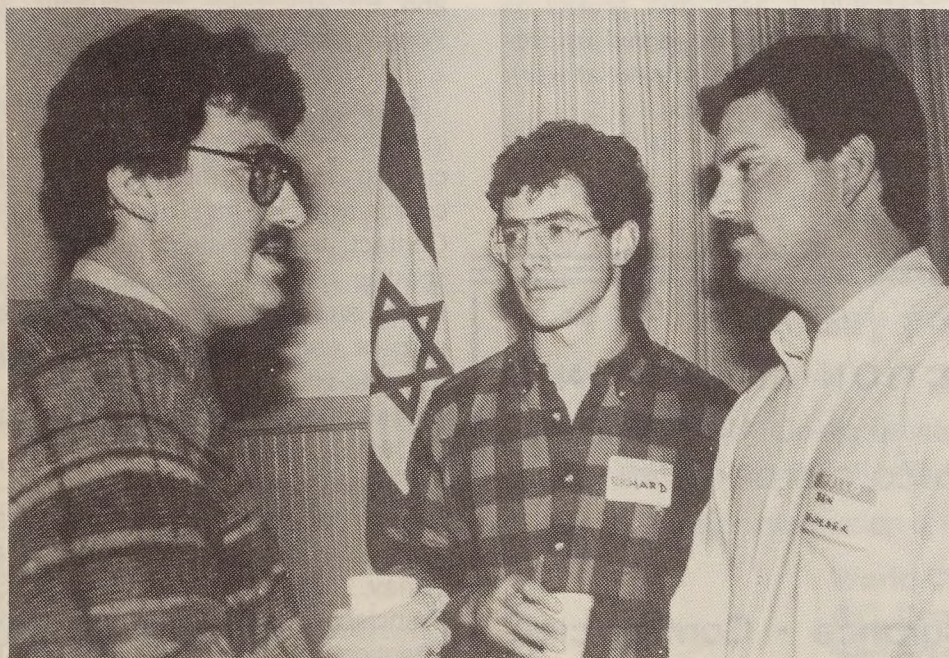
at the Synagogue

Sunday, March 1

4 pm

Donation requested

Tea Time



Newsletter Chair, Alex Ingersoll (left) and Recorder, Ben Schalit (right) welcome new member Richard Sinkoff to the Congregation at the New Members Tea & Toast held at the synagogue on Sunday, January 25. Richard was one of 80 members who joined Sha'ar Zahav during 1986, all of whom were invited to meet the CSZ leadership at this informal affair.

PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

Children's Havurah

A Little Megillah

After the big Megillah on Saturday night, continue the celebration of Purim with the Children's/Family Havurah on Sunday, March 15, from 11 am to 1 pm at the synagogue. This will be a perfect opportunity to share our traditions with our children and each other and to be boisterous and silly all at the same time.

Rabbi Kahn will lead a special children's service, complete with the retelling of the Megillah, noisemakers and songs. Costumes are encouraged for adults and kids alike.

Adults please note that you don't have to be a parent to attend. Children's Havurah events are a good chance to become an honorary aunt or uncle for the day.

There will be a potluck lunch afterwards, so please bring a dish to share.

For more information, call Jill at 534-2339, Sue at 534-1606 or the synagogue office.

The Idles of March

This title lies. With a vibrant congregation like ours, there is always so much going on. Most of the activity may not be immediately visible to the membership, so here are some examples:

Seder: Garry Koenigsberg, one of our Board members, has spent the past six months researching a new venue with a new menu for our annual Seder. No only has he been successful in his search, but we are happy to be able to charge significantly less than usual. We also expect the food will be edible this year. No refunds if I'm wrong! The hardworking and ever-creative Ritual Committee is planning a revitalized service. Plan to attend this new, improved Seder.

Library: Following a year of work, we inch ever closer to having our own library. Keep your eyes peeled for updates.

Memorial Boards Dedication: Here is an example of a process which began over two years ago. As I recall, it was a delicate dance on eggshells with at least four meetings to determine if, how and where a *yahrzeit* light would be placed on the boards. (We do nothing halfway.) Finally, all was ready for the dedication when four new variables surfaced that could not have been anticipated and called for an instant *Va'ad* huddle. If you come to services on Friday, March 6 you will

witness a beautiful and poignant dedication service and ceremony.

Purim: It will be a modest affair this year. Previous *Megillah* Madnesses have put some of our Social Program committee members into straight jackets. We'd like them to relax and have a good time at the party and see how it works to boogie a bit in our own building. Even though the event will be scaled down, it still takes some planning and die-hard Shirley Liberman has once again taken over as "party princess." Join us on Saturday, March 14.

10th Anniversary: Take the moth balls out of your tux pockets, polish up the rhinestone earrings and get the heels fixed on your party pumps. This will be a swell "do"—mark your calendars—Saturday, August 8. Eric Keitel and his coterie are selecting a caterer as we go to press.

Annual Meeting and Election: The new synagogue year will begin July 1, and on Sunday, May 31, we will hold our annual election and meeting. This is the time to vote on officers, new Board members, and the budget, as well as some Bylaw changes. Mail will go out on this shortly.

Cookbook: I hear this project is heating up and will be served up this summer. Many busy hands are at work on many word processors.

(Continued on page 7)

SPONSOR AN ONEG!

It's a great way to celebrate a special occasion.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the *Va'ad* meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Allan Altman, Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Chuck Norton, Ben Schalit, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-7152) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.



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Women's Conference

Save Money— 2 Weeks Only

Been meaning to send in your registration for the Women's Conference, "A Taste of Honey," but haven't gotten around to it yet? You have only two more weeks to take advantage of the early registration discount.

Costs for the entire weekend, including all lodging, food and activities, is \$90 for members who pay before March 15, \$100 after that date. For non-members, the early registration fee is \$105 before March 15th and \$120 after that date. There are also special rates for children.

Detailed planning is underway for this exciting event which will involve Jewish lesbians and their women friends from around the greater Bay Area and some outlying regions as well. It will be the highlight of the women's activities for a long time. Don't miss it. Remember to mark May 15-17 on your calendar for the gathering of the 13th tribe, the tribe of women, at Camp Swig. Above all, remember to register now.

Election Committee News

The date for elections has been set by the Va'ad for Sunday, May 31. The Election Committee is finalizing the list of candidates for office and five Va'ad positions, hopefully to be announced at the March Va'ad meeting.

All members are reminded that, in addition to the slate established by the committee, candidates may be added to the ballot by petition, with those petitions being due no later than Thursday, April 16.

Once the ballot is finalized, all members will receive election materials including candidate statements, dates for Candidates Nights at the shul, as well as information concerning absentee ballots.

—Allan Gold, Chair
Rosalinda del Moral
Jonathan Funk
Alex Ingersoll
Ora Prochovnick

Gourmet Congregational Seder?

CSZ's Congregational Seder, our annual tradition for the second Seder night, will take place this year at Lehr's Greenhouse Restaurant, 750 Sutter Street, on Tuesday, April 14. Chef Randy Lehr promises his personal attention to the homemade gefilte fish and matzoh ball soup (he says he's starting to experiment on his family now), and we're hoping that both the cuisine and the lovely setting will make this our most pleasant Seder together yet. As a nice little bonus, we've been able to *lower* the price substantially to \$20 (\$18 members, \$6 children).

Although strict Orthodox rules of kashrut won't be followed, a vegetarian entree will be offered, as well as roast chicken and smoked roast beef. In addition to the traditional Manischewitz we supply for the ceremony, the hotel will offer a selection of, uh, drier wines, at various prices.

The Ritual Committee, vowing not to be outdone, promises an enriched ceremony. With some changes to our liturgy and increased participation by table groups as well as individuals, we hope for a more "haimish,"

intimate and meaningful observance of the Exodus.

Please send in your Seder reservation form (there's one right in this issue) as soon as you can. Reservations *must* be received by April 7; because of the size of the room, late reservations cannot be assured of seating. Seating is general, but tables of ten may be reserved. Financial subsidies are available for anyone who cannot afford to pay; just contact the treasurer, Jerry Rosenstein, at 921-0581. By the way, since both these subsidies and the children's tickets cost our synagogue money, we certainly could use your help in covering these costs. Please don't pass over the contribution space on the reservation form.

So we'll look forward to seeing everyone at Lehr's Greenhouse on April 24. There's validated parking for \$4 at the garage at 840 Sutter (car-pooling encouraged), and half a dozen buses stop right in front. Doors will open at 6 pm, the ceremony will begin at 6:30, and we've been told that an important Jewish prophet may make an appearance. For more information, please call the synagogue office.

Let's meet in Amsterdam
at the

10th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews

July 2-5

Co-sponsored by Sjalhomo and the
World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations

For information & registration packets, write to:

World Congress
P.O. Box 881272
San Francisco, CA 94188

Travel package, including Israel tour, also available

The New "Court Jew"

Some months ago, I wrote a column about the abuse of the term "Zionism," which refers to the national liberation movement of the Jewish people in its ancestral homeland. On the left, hasty and polemical criticism of Israeli policy frequently turns into anti-Zionism and even anti-Semitism. In the Jewish community outside Israel, free and open debate about Israeli policy or decisions is often stifled in the name of Israel's "national security."

We who love Israel and are committed to the Zionist dream have a special responsibility to critically examine the direction of the Zionist movement and its progress towards its goals. The respect and honor we have for Martin Luther King's teaching is not lessened because the social transformation he foresaw has yet to be realized. Similarly, we need to remember the worthy goals of the founders of Zionism even if their successors have yet to succeed in realizing them.

In 1882, Leo Pinsker argued in his book *Auto-Emancipation* that anti-Semitism was the product of the "foreign" status of Jews in Europe. If they had their own land, the Jews could become a nation like any other and anti-Semitism would disappear. Leaving aside Pinsker's internalized anti-Semitism, the founders of political Zionism taught that the dignity and stature of Jews would rise everywhere if the Jewish people had a territorial home like every other (European) nation.

A "territorial solution" was sought for eminently practical reasons as well. After several relatively quiet decades, the last quarter of the 19th century was marked by violent pogroms throughout the area of Jewish settlement in Eastern Europe. There was an urgent need for a safe haven where persecuted Jews could flee with certain knowledge of welcome. The Zionists dreamed of "normalcy"—for the oppressed Jews of the world and for the Jewish people as a whole.

Tikkun editor Michael Lerner recently pointed out that the marginal social status of Jews in European society was a direct consequence of the economic disabilities placed upon them. Usually forbidden to own land or become skilled craftworkers, many Jews were employed as property agents, tax or rent collectors, money lenders or in similar positions. Lerner suggests that while the Jews themselves were relatively powerless, they were disliked by the masses because they were the visible agents of the landlords and upper class. In this capacity, they were the object of the under-class's violence. Seeking protection, Jews turned to the ruler or ruling class. Court Jews sought to safeguard the Jewish community by currying favor with the king or ruler. The consequences of this involvement was often further animosity from the populace. (Lerner calls Joseph in Egypt "the first court Jew.")

Early Zionist theory promised a resolution to this historical problem. A

(Continued on page 9)

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss:

To **Leila Raim** on the recent loss of her aunt, Sylvia Stein.

To **Roberta W.** on the recent loss of her grandfather, Irv W.

Ritual Calendar

Friday, March 6

Parshah: Terumah, Ex. 25:1-27:19

Haftarah: I Kings 5:26-6:13

Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Dana Vinicoff
Dedication of Memorial Boards

Friday, March 13

Shabbat Zakhor

Parshah: Tetzaveh, Ex. 27:20-30:10

Maftir: Deut. 25:17-19

Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-34

Daniel Chesir

The Torah will be read.

Saturday, March 14

Erev Purim Service, 7:30 pm

Rohchella Fish

The Book of Esther may be read.

Friday, March 20

Shabbat Parah

Parshah: Ki Tisa, Ex. 30:11-34:35

Maftir: Num. 19:1-22

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38

Mike Rankin, Services

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Sermon

Friday, March 27

Parshah: Vayakhel-Pekude, Ex. 35:1-40:38

Maftir: Ex. 12:1-20

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

Eric Keitel & Jonathan Funk

Saturday, March 28

Morning Service, 10:30 am
Jewish Living Class

April Preview

Friday, April 3

Parshah: Vayikra, Lev. 1:1-5:26

Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23

Dana Vinicoff & Nancy Snow

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Shevat 1 Rosh Chodesh I UAHC Biennial San Rafael Rabbi Douglas Kahn Lecture, 4pm	1 Adar 2 Rosh Chodesh II	2 3 Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm Newsletter Comm. 140 Ord, 7:30 pm	3 4 Class, 7:30pm	4 5	5 6 Services, 8:15pm Memorial Boards Dedication	6 7
7 8	8 9 Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	9 10 Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	10 11 Soviet Vigil Green & Baker, 11:30am Class, 7:30pm	11 12 Fast of Esther Social Action Comm. 7:30pm	12 13 Services, 8:15pm	13 14 Purim Service & Party, 7:30pm
14 15 Feast of Purim Children's Party & Lunch, 11am-1pm Drama Havurah 929-9524	15 16 Education Comm. 7:30pm	16 17 Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	17 18 Class, 7:30pm	18 19 Bikkur Cholim Comm. 7:30pm	19 20 Services, 8:15pm	20 21 Interfaith AIDS Conf. St. Mary's/St. Mark's Women's Havurah Video Night, 7:30pm 173 Bonview
21 22 Interfaith AIDS Conf. Temple Emanu-El	22 23	23 24 Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	24 25 Class, 7:30pm	25 26 Ritual Comm., 6:30pm Newsletter Mailing 11 Grandview Terr., 7:30pm	26 27 Services, 8:15pm	27 28 Morning Service, 10:30am
28 29	29 30	1 Nisan 31 Rosh Chodesh Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm				

Annual Passover Workshop

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that "How to Plan and Lead a Seder" will be the topic of this year's Passover workshop on Sunday, April 5. The program will begin with a "chametz brunch" (lox and bagels) at 11 am in the Oneg Room. Rabbi Kahn will lead a discussion on using "non-traditional" Hagadahs at the Passover Seder. We will look at the UAHC Hagadah, the Shalom Seders, the San Diego Woman's Hagadah and learn how to create an original Hagadah for a Seder. Singing of new and old songs for Passover will conclude the program.

Reservations are requested—but not required—for the brunch, which will cost \$5. Please call the synagogue office. The program will begin promptly at noon.

Birthdays

- 2 Donald Gordon
- 5 Edward Pollock
- 6 Adrienne Forshay
- 7 Allen Harris
- 8 Steffan Powers
- 8 Andrew Zimmerman
- 9 Laurie Davis
- 9 Perry Paker
- 10 Dana Vinicoff
- 13 Stephen Walters
- 13 Michael Frank
- 15 Russell Kassman
- 19 Rachel Wahba
- 21 M.C. Abramson
- 21 Jeffrey Paul Schuman
- 23 Blanche Blachman
- 23 Susan Ganz
- 24 Jay Ladin
- 29 Robert Gutterman
- 29 Harold Parker
- 30 Susan Greenspan

Office Notes

Sha'ar Zahav T-shirts and sweat-shirts are available from the CSZ office. The cost is \$10 for a T-shirt and \$15 for a sweatshirt (plus \$1 for postage). These are intended as fundraisers for Sha'ar Zahav, and may be purchased as gifts for birthdays, etc. As a member of Sha'ar Zahav, they may also be worn with pride.

Keeping Posted's issue on "homosexuality" is available from the CSZ office. The cost is \$1.50 (plus 40¢ for postage).

For access to the building call the CSZ office. Also be reminded that the access code for the oneg room door has been changed recently.

Oneg sponsorships are currently available for March 13, 27 and April 10, 17, 24. This is a great way to honor or remember a special event or loved one. Call the CSZ office for information and to schedule a sponsorship.

—Jacqueline Letalien

Jill Rose

Jill Rose spoke with me in the sunny living room of the Oakland home she shares with her partner Annie and their son Joshua. In the relatively short time she has been a member, Jill has discovered how synagogue activity and family life both can, and do, mix.

Born in New York City, Jill spent her first years in Connecticut, among nine Jewish families living on a farmland hill that she describes as "idyllic, safe, and lots of kids." At age 9, her family moved to Arizona. One of her strong influences growing up was her maternal grandmother, Pauline, who was "funny and bright and taught me about the loyalty and independence which have since become a part of me." Jill went on to say that her family is still very close—and crazy.

Relocating to the Bay Area, she dropped in and out of U.C. Berkeley from 1967 to 1973 when "everything was happening," earned her BA degree in sociology and history and received her teaching credentials. Since then, she worked for several years as Activity Coordinator at the Jewish Home for the Aged and currently works at the Sisters of Mercy Residential Center.

In April 1983, Jill became a member of Sha'ar Zahav. As an accomplished singer and songwriter with her own band for five years and musical experience including writing, arranging and teaching piano, she was clearly destined for musical activities. First the chorus director persuaded her to sing with the chorus for the dedication. Next, the Hallel Brothers (Eric, Jon and Harvey) asked her to sing with them for High Holy Days. "That was really wonderful. It's wonderful to work with them; they're very talented, warm and fun. What I really wanted was to be a successful songwriter and mother.

"When I got pregnant, I was singing in the chorus and people were so thrilled it felt like everyone went through the pregnancy with me! People gave me so much caring, support and protection." The day Jill found out the sex of the baby, she co-led services with Eric Keitel who announced from the bimah that Jill and Annie were going to have a boy! Later, Joshua's



PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

naming ceremony brought Jill's parents into Sha'ar Zahav and involved them in a very special way.

Joshua is now two, and Jill's life has changed greatly. She helped start, and now co-chairs, the Children's Havurah. She would like to see more events geared for kids, such as holiday programs, a Sunday school, and training for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. "One of the goals that we have at the Havurah is to get members involved with or without kids. It would be good for everybody to open up to the idea that we have kids here." Jill likes what she does with this group and it shows. "There's so much possibility and potential for involvement. If a lot of people participate, it takes very little from any one person to keep things moving. While it can seem like we all know each other, we try to be mindful of making everyone feel welcome, especially people coming for the first time."

Now, at age 37, Jill says "I'd like to learn more about ritual for myself because I find it meaningful as I get older... there's something very special about being with Jewish people. CSZ is a synthesis of a lot of what I look for in life—a place to be with Jews, a sense of extended family, and a community and place where I can be who I am... emotionally I feel very attached."

Jill brings to CSZ an abundance of enthusiasm, ideas and talents. Maybe her example will persuade others to also become active.

—Amy Blasenheim

Drama Havurah Steps Out

The 1979 New York stage hit *Bent* will make its first Bay Area run this month at the San Francisco Repertory Theatre, 19th & Collingwood.

The CSZ Drama Havurah has planned its premier event by reserving a block of 20 seats for the March 15, Sunday evening performance.

Bent is set in Nazi Germany and explores homosexual persecution, Jewish persecution and issues of survival. It is extremely powerful and timely.

To join us and reserve your seats, please mail checks to Allan Gold, 424 Central, San Francisco, CA 94117. Checks for \$11/seat should be made out to SF Repertory Theatre and received no later than March 9.

Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis. Send your checks early and join us at the theatre at 7:40 pm, Sunday the 15th, for a very unique evening with the CSZ Drama Havurah.

Naches

The Volunteer Legal Services Project of the San Francisco Bar Association in February named **Ora Prochovnick** "Volunteer of the Month" for her generous commitment to *pro bono* work, especially in the area of tenant/landlord disputes. We're proud to recognize yet another CSZ member performing mitzvahs in the community.

* * *

We'd all like to share in the *naches* of members of our Sha'ar Zahav family. If you or someone you know has something special to share with *Forward* readers, please contact the synagogue office.

Sha'ar Zahav's Children

Since its organizing meeting in April 1986, the Children's/Family Havurah has been growing rapidly through a series of planned activities. During the past nine months, our seven activities have ranged from programs focusing on shabbat observances, including a shabbat candlestick-making event, to special children's services and a few programs featuring storytelling and singing. Most programs have also included a potluck lunch or Shabbat dinner.

Not counting childcare at High Holy Days, more than 80 people, including 30 children, have attended these events. This group represents 23 families with children, plus another 13 who came to enjoy the children's activities. Average attendance has run about 30-35 at each event, with attendance being a problem at only one event so far: at a program of stories and songs planned for a Friday evening service in August, only one child came to services—and she fell asleep in her pew before the program was to start (we didn't wake her).

Childcare at High Holy Days was so successful that we plan on arranging for two rooms next year to allow for different environments for different age groups.

So far, much of the responsibility for planning, organizing and presenting these programs has fallen on the shoulders of the co-chairs (Jill Rose and me), with the grateful assistance of Rabbi Kahn, the Garay-Buchbinder family, the Education Committee and the family of Jeremy Hoffman.

Based on the results of a recent questionnaire, we hope to form a steering committee to involve more people in future programming of the Havurah. Our aim is to have a program event every two months, with at least one Friday evening Shabbat potluck dinner in between in San Francisco and/or the East Bay.

For me, personally, every event so far has been thrilling. It is extremely satisfying for me to have a place to go with Sonia, where we can be a Jewish lesbian and the daughter of a Jewish lesbian, together with other Jewish gay and lesbian families. And it is a thrill to see how many other people there are with the same need.

We would, however, like to see more men—and women without children—involved with us as well. Our children are our future, and they need not only their parents but the whole of the Sha'ar Zahav community to grow and mature.

—Sue Douglass, Co-Chair
Children's Havurah

President's Column

(Continued from page 2)

Building Campaign: Members who joined in the past two or three years have been denied the opportunity to contribute to our building. You will be hearing from us soon. We hope before the roof leaks again.

Are you exhausted yet? You know, it's not only the leadership who keep things going around here. It is the members who, through their contributions of time and money, make it possible for us to grow. I am particularly heartened by some of the newer members. Through their dues pledges, which follow our 1% of gross income guideline, and volunteer time, they are making it clear how seriously they take their commitment to our shul and community.

Hardly anybody is idle. Membership in CSZ often means a chance to jump on a stimulus overload ride. Many of us who take it are never the same again!

—Irene Ogus, President

Omission

On December 26, the Congregation honored the past presidents of Sha'ar Zahav by installing a plaque in their honor in the shul. The February *Forward* carried a photo of those honorees who were present, as well as listing the other past presidents and co-leaders who could not attend. Unfortunately, we omitted Leila Raim, who was president from 1984 to 1985. Our apologies to Leila. Sha'ar Zahav exists because of the extraordinary volunteer efforts of its members, and especially its leaders. We like to take every opportunity to acknowledge those efforts and say thank you.

—Alex Ingersoll,
for the Newsletter Committee

Bikkur Cholim

A Mitzvah Acknowledged

During Shabbat services on Friday, March 20, the Congregation will honor members who have performed special mitzvot as volunteers at the Jewish Home for the Aged.

James Proctor, Ellen Kugler, Michael McCormick, Nathan Robinson and Mark Lipschutz have been invited to participate at our Shabbat services, and the Oneg following will be given by the Bikkur Cholim Committee in their honor.

A volunteer program of assisting at the Home's Friday evening services was established by Rabbi Marcus, of blessed memory, who was Chaplain at the Home and Chair of Sha'ar Zahav's Bikkur Cholim Committee. After Rabbi Marcus's death, several CSZ members volunteered to lead the weekly services until the appointment of the new chaplain, Rabbi Cohen.

Joining with the Home's residents for Shabbat dinner and assisting with services continues to be an important community volunteer activity. Rabbi Cohen is seeking additional volunteers to assist with gathering residents for services on both Friday evening and Saturday mornings. Volunteers are invited guests of the Home for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. Their voices add strength to the singing and give joy to the residents.

Each of our congregation's volunteers has indicated the strong personal rewards received by participating in this mitzvah. Please speak to one of them, and contact Rabbi Cohen at 334-2500 for further details.

Classified Ads

WANTED: A Jewish Boy and his dog seek an apartment (share or individual) in San Francisco—up to \$550. Please call David Gass or leave a message at 567-7654.

SHARE NOE VALLEY FLAT: Beautiful, modern, 3 bdrms, 2 bath, laundry, decks, fireplace, views, quiet street. \$600 incl. util. Call Bruce Katz, 550-2651.

JEWISH LESBIAN seeks other to share Noe Valley flat + garage. Rent: \$400/mo. + deposit + util. Call: 285-3813 eves.

So Don't Ask Aunt Yente (see if she cares)

Dear Aunt Yente,

Is Purim a serious holiday?

Nudnick on Nordhoff

Dear Nudnick,

Such a question! *Is Purim serious!* Does a Rabbi daven in the woods? Is a bear Jewish? Can Aunt Yente braise a flanken?

Purim is the most serious holiday we have. Compared to Purim, *takke*, Yom Kippur is a laugh riot. Purim is observed by long moaning processions through the streets, while synagogue officers are sprinkled with bitter herbs. Aunt Yente this Purim will dress entirely in black, and wander through the Castro flogging herself with a piece brisket (\$1.89 a pound and *all fat*. A *shandel!*), chanting "My children never write to me! My children never write to me!"

A serious holiday? There's no holiday that's more serious. On Purim you must seriously go out and have the silliest, happiest celebration you can. Serious? Feh.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

What is the word written on the outside of a mezzuzah?

Morris on Montgomery

Dear Morris,

The word written there is Shaddai, one of the names of God. Aunt Yente had been taught the name derives from Shaddaim, the Hebrew word for breasts, and honors God as the nurturer of the world; but she has just been reading Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed, and although it left her even more perplexed (which is after all fair, since Maimonides would probably have been left pretty perplexed by Aunt Yente), there is a different explanation. Maimonides says that the root of the name is Dai, meaning enough (you may remember a little tune that goes "Dai, Dai-einu"); Shaddai is the One who is enough, who transcends names and descriptions.

Inside the mezzuzah is a parchment with interesting things written there, but since you didn't ask, Aunt Yente

isn't going to say. (But a hint she'll give. The mezzuzah goes on the doorpost of your house. You know maybe a portion of the Torah that mentions writing things on such a place?)

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1987 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Yahrzeits

- 2 Fannie Leiss, mother of Walt Leiss
- 2 Mona Shapiro, niece of Marilyn Braiger
- 6 Pearl Lewin, grandmother of Richard Inlander
- 7 (6 Adar) Max Raim, father of Leila Raim
- 8 Isidore Shapiro, father of Marilyn Braiger
- 11 Hannah Goodman, aunt of Eric Keitel
- 12 Helen Coleman, friend of Pamela Singer
- 15 Axel Schoenberg, grandfather of Johanna Johnson
- 16 Ted Mendonca, member of Sha'ar Zahav and lover of Richard Inlander
- 16 Ariel Thal, father of Sam Thal
- 17 (16 Adar) Mollie Podgur, mother of Hal Podgur
- 17 (16 Adar) Joseph M. Cohen, father of Paul Cohen
- 18 (17 Adar) Helen Pechter, mother of Bernard Pechter
- 18 (17 Adar) Sam Schwartz, father of Paul Schwartz
- 18 (17 Adar) Walter Solomon, grandfather of Elliott Toporek
- 20 Minnie Tonn, grandmother of Allan Gold
- 21 Arthur Bellm, grandfather of Dan Bellm
- 21 Steven Clarfield, cousin of Jeff Presement
- 21 Alan Vinicoff, father of Dana Vinicoff
- 22 Sylvia Vogel, mother of Lee Vogel
- 27 Sarah Goldman, grandmother of Jeff Presement
- 27 James Robert Rankin, father of Mike Rankin and Sylvia Webb
- 30 Abraham Kramer, grandfather of Steve Cronenwalt

Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 9. In his *D'var Torah*, Rabbi Kahn explained that we can understand the apparent redundancy in reading the Exodus story twice (both at Passover and during the annual cycle of Torah readings) by regarding the repetition as emphasizing the ongoing "coming out" process in our lives.

Garry Koenigsberg reported on plans for this year's Congregational Seder. The Va'ad approved Garry's recommendations, and President Irene Ogus thanked Garry for his work, especially since the lower costs this year should make it possible for more people to participate.

Irene presented the need for establishing an Endowment Fund, and Finance Committee chair Don Albert outlined some of the tasks required for setting up such a fund. The Va'ad approved a motion to earmark future proceeds from all memorials besides plaques and bookplates for a special

account, pending the establishment of an Endowment Fund.

Rabbi Kahn added to his written report that he has completed a translation of an article in *Ma'ariv* which favorably describes Sha'ar Zahav. Rabbi Kahn was also pleased to report that an article of his on Judaism and Homosexuality will soon appear in the *Journal of Homosexuality*.

Office Secretary Jacqueline Letalien said she welcomes volunteers to help with filing, typing and sundry other tasks, and reported that several members already are doing so.

Membership Committee chair Robin Leonard presented to the Va'ad four new membership applications, which were accepted with the Va'ad's unanimous approval.

Social Program chair Shirley Liberman reported on plans for Purim this year, which will include services (megillah reading) and a party in our synagogue.

(Continued on page 9)

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Thomas Sattler, in memory of the father of Bernard Kateman

Mim & Chuck Scalin, in honor of our dear cousin Irene Ogus

Ari Goldman, in honor of Mike Rankin, CSZ & the affection that unites them

J. Gabriella Heinsheimer

Allen Harris, in honor of the birth of my first nephew & godchild Phillip Marc Yanofsky

Sen Talley, in honor of Mike Rankin's birthday & Neil Hart's birthday

Garry Koenigsberg, in honor of Shirley Liberman's help in finding me a new home

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of Irene Ogus' birthday, Leila Raim's birthday, Alex Ingersoll's birthday, Bruce Katz's birthday, Alex & David's anniversary; in memory of Ruth Wishner

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Daniel Chesir

Betty Kalis, in honor of Mike Rankin

Building Fund

Betty Kalis, in memory of Phillip & Esther Kalis

Charles Norton

Enoch Harrison

Jacqueline Letalien, in honor of the Congregation

Ron Wimot

AIDS Fund

Lu Chaikin, in memory of Gary Walsh
Deanna La Bonge, in memory of Ruth Wishner

Paul Glackman

Steve Cronenwalt, in memory of Kurt Stutzman

Ron Lezell, in memory of Kurt Stutzman

Bruce Katz, in memory of Kurt Stutzman

Library Fund

R. Anixter, in memory of David Kotch

High Holidays Appeal

Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Ruth & William Cahn, Francine Eber, Jacob Gaines, Janice Levy, Diana Lion, Kathryn Miller, Walter Palmer, Joel Perlstein & Deborah Udin

From the Rabbi

(Continued from page 4)

state of their own would free Jews from their dependency on others for protection and from the anti-Semitism they experienced in other lands. Secondly, the Jewish people could act in its own corporate interests instead of being forced to carry out the plans of more powerful others.

Almost forty years after the founding of the modern state of Israel, the dream of self-determination for the Jewish people and an end to anti-Semitism seem far off. The state of Israel, which was to solve the problems of Jewish existence in the Diaspora, has itself become a *corporate* Diaspora Jew.

Israel is to America today what the Jewish agent was to the absentee Russian landowner a century ago. What choice does Israel have? Surrounded by hostile enemies with well-equipped armies, Israel and the lives of its citizens would be in immediate danger without a steady flow of American arms and supplies.

In order to ensure its own survival, Israel has become Washington's court Jew, doing America's dirty work around the world. In Central America, Israel shipped the arms which Congress has forbidden the President to send. It is a *shanda* for the Jewish people that Israel remains one of South Africa's largest trading partners and supplier of weapons. And, as in centuries gone by, the Jews are blamed for doing the tasks which economic and political survival require. Israel's "special relationship" with the United States, frequently reaffirmed by leaders in and out of government in both countries, is really a sign of how far from its founders' goals—and our own—the Zionist enterprise still is.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Oneg Sponsors

During January, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 1 Sage Foster, in honor of her first year clean and sober
- 16 Women's Havurah, in honor of the Congregation
- 30 Michael Grusd

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring a complete oneg is \$80 or, for partial sponsorship, \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Va'ad Report

(Continued from page 8)

The Va'ad set the date of the Congregation's semiannual meeting and election for Sunday, May 31. Vice President Richard Inlander reported on proposed amendments to the Bylaws, which would change the number of congregational meetings from two to one a year and change the requirement for dates of Candidates' Nights. The Va'ad voted its approval of the proposed bylaw amendments, to go to the congregation for a vote at the May 31 congregational meeting.

UAHC Liaison Mike Rankin encouraged attendance at the UAHC Regional Biennial in San Rafael, which will take place February 28 through March 2. Irene was pleased to inform the Va'ad that Mike is being nominated to the national board of the UAHC.

Before the meeting adjourned and those present sang *Oseh Shalom*, Past President Cheryl Orvis delighted Irene and Richard by presenting them with pins appropriate to their positions as president and vice president of the congregation.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Irene Ogus
Vice President, Richard Inlander
Treasurer, Jerry Rosenstein
Recorder, Ben Schalit

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Eric Keitel
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Shirley Liberman
Mike Rankin
Susan Talley
Don Albert, ex officio

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm, with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Havurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Education, Bill Goldstein
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin & Lawney Baldwin
Past Presidents Council, Cheryl Orvis
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Marion Trentman

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Secretary:

Jacqueline Letalien

The Synagogue Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 2:30 pm. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

AIDS Interfaith Conference

During the weekend of March 21 and 22, an Interfaith Conference on AIDS and ARC will be held in San Francisco. Workshops and other events are being scheduled to take place throughout the weekend at Congregation Emanu-El, St. Mark's Lutheran Church and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Designed as a developmental, assessment and planning session for clergy and other "care givers," all interested persons are invited to attend. Co-sponsored by Sha'ar Zahav, Rabbi Kahn will be a key participant in the conference.

A brochure detailing the schedule of events will be distributed, or information will also be available through the synagogue office or Rabbi Kahn.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in February. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family, including:

Dey Ehrlich
Sylvine, David & Cary Jerome
Merry Luskin

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Women's Havurah

Video Movie Night

An evening of video movies, popcorn, and gemutlichkeit will be the March event for Sha'ar Zahav's active and lively Women's Havurah. It will be held on Saturday evening, March 21, from 7:30–11 pm at Shirley Liberman's. Please call the synagogue office for directions.

The Women's Havurah holds monthly activities for all women members, their friends and women who may be interested in membership. New members in particular will find Havurah events a comfortable way to begin getting acquainted with others.

Be sure to set aside the night of the 21st for this event. Movie titles will be announced in an upcoming flyer.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

CONGREGATIONAL SEDER RESERVATION FORM

Tuesday, April 14, 6 pm

Lehr's Greenhouse Restaurant

750 Sutter Street

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

_____ Members (\$18 each)

_____ Non-members (\$20 each)

_____ Children under twelve (\$6 each)

Please indicate your choice of entrees (number of each):

_____ Roast chicken

_____ Smoked cross-rib of beef

_____ Frittata (vegetarian)

Our synagogue subsidizes the cost of the Seder for children and individuals unable to afford the full cost. Can you help with this?

I wish to donate \$_____ toward Seder subsidies.

☐ My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge \$_____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Visa # _____ Exp. _____

MC # _____ Exp. _____

MC Interbank # (4 digits) _____

Signature: _____

**Mail to: Congregational Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers Street
San Francisco, CA 94114**

All reservation forms must be received by Tuesday, April 7.

Tickets will be held at the door.

Signing for the hearing-impaired can be requested when reservation is made.

